

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220243

FOR USDEL LOS

FOL RPT JAKARTA 11693 SENT ACTION WELLINGTON INFO SECSTATE
MEDAN SURABAYA AUG 29, 1978

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11693

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, ID, PLOS, NZ, VM
SUBJECT: INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND AT COST
PERHAPS OF MISSING VIETNAMESE PM

REF: (A) JAKARTA 2852 (NOTAL), (B) JAKARTA 10677 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY AND FOREIGN DEPARTMENT
SOURCES HERE, INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA
WILL DEPART JAKARTA SEPTEMBER 16 FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO NEW
ZEALAND UNTIL APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER 20. THIS VISIT IS RE-
PORTEDLY AT MOCHTAR'S OWN REQUEST, FOR HE IS PARTICULARLY IN-
TERESTED IN A LAW OF THE SEA RELATED ISSUE WHEREBY NEW ZEALAND
HAS BEGUN ISSUING LICENSES (OR IS ABOUT TO BEGIN) FOR FOREIGN
FISHING VESSELS IN THE 200 MILE ZONE.

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2. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND FOR PROTOCOL
TELLS US IT IS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER MOCHTAR WILL RETURN TO
JAKARTA FROM NEW ZEALAND FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEPTEMBER 20-
23 VISIT OF VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG OR WHETHER
HE WILL PROCEED DIRECTLY FROM NEW ZEALAND TO THE UNGA
WHERE HE IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE SEPTEMBER 23.

3. COMMENT: IN TERMS OF MOCHTAR'S OWN STANDING IN THE POWER STRUCTURE SINCE HE MOVED UP FROM ACTING TO FULL FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE APRIL 1978 CABINET CHANGES, WE FIND IT CURIOUS THAT HE WOULD CHOOSE TO GO AHEAD WITH HIS NEW ZEALAND TRIP IN SPITE OF THE VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER 1) MOCHTAR IS INSISTING ON GOING AHEAD WITH THIS SELF-GENERATED VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND (PERHAPS BECAUSE, AS REPORTED REFTTEL, HE LINKS TALKS WITH VIETNAM TO STILL TO BE OBTAINED PROGRESS ON A GOI-SRV SEA BOUNDARY AGREEMENT) OR 2) HIS MILITARY SUPERIORS WISH THEMSELVES TO HANDLE THE PHAM VAN DONG VISIT. IN MOCHTAR'S ABSENCE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE HANDLED BY MINISTER OF STATE AND COORDINATING MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS, GENERAL M. PANGGABEAN.
GARDNER
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPJER

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